

Appl. No. : 09/879,364
Filed : June 12, 2001

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 14, 2005, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. Claims 8-28 were pending. As a result of the amendments presented above, Claims 12-15, 17-21, and 23-33 are pending and are believed to be in condition for allowance. In an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicants have canceled Claims 9-11, 16, and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer and expressly reserve the right to pursue these or similar claims in one or more related applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 12, 19, and 24. Applicants have amended Claims 12, 19, and 24 as suggested by the Examiner. All of the remaining claims, including the new claims, depend from these independent claims. Thus, the subject matter of all pending claims has been noted as allowable by the Examiner.

If any matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 1/13/06

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